

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An antibacterial compound consisting of a substantially uncharged antisense oligomer containing from 10 to 40 morpholino ~~[nucleotide]~~ subunits, each of said subunits ~~[comprising a 5- or 6-membered ring]~~ supporting a base-pairing moiety effective to bind by Watson-Crick base pairing to a respective nucleotide base, said base-pairing moieties including a targeting nucleic acid sequence at least 10 nucleotides in length which is effective to hybridize to a target sequence[,] containing a translational start codon[,] within a bacterial nucleic acid which encodes an *E. coli secA* protein, and thereby to inhibit expression of said target sequence;

wherein adjacent subunits are joined by uncharged linkages selected from the group consisting of: uncharged phosphoramidate [,] and phosphorodiamidate, ~~[carbonate, carbamate, amide, phosphotriester, alkyl phosphonate, siloxane, sulfone, sulfonamide, sulfamate, thioformacetyl, and methylene-N-methylhydroxylamino,]~~ or by charged linkages selected from the group consisting of ~~[phosphate,]~~ charged phosphoramidate and ~~[phosphorothioate]~~ phosphorodiamidate, and the ratio of uncharged linkages to charged linkages in the oligomer is at least 4:1.

2. Previously withdrawn

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim [3] 1, wherein each uncharged linkage is a phosphorodiamidate linkage as represented ~~[at Figure 2B]~~ by $-P(=O)(NR_2)-O-$, ~~[where X=NR₂,]~~ where R is hydrogen or methyl[, ~~Y=O, and Z=O~~].

5. (Currently amended) The compound of claim [3] 4, wherein each linkage is a phosphorodiamidate linkage as represented ~~[at Figure 2B]~~ by $-P(=O)(NR_2)-O-$, ~~[where X=NR₂,]~~ where R is hydrogen or methyl[, ~~Y=O, and Z=O~~].

6. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the targeting nucleic acid sequence has a length of 10 to 20 bases.

7-12. Previously withdrawn

13. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the targeting sequence has the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 47 (*E. coli secA*).

14. Cancelled

15-16. Previously withdrawn

17. Cancelled

18. Previously withdrawn

19-23. Cancelled

24-29 Previously withdrawn

30-31. Cancelled

32-33. Previously withdrawn

34-41. Cancelled
